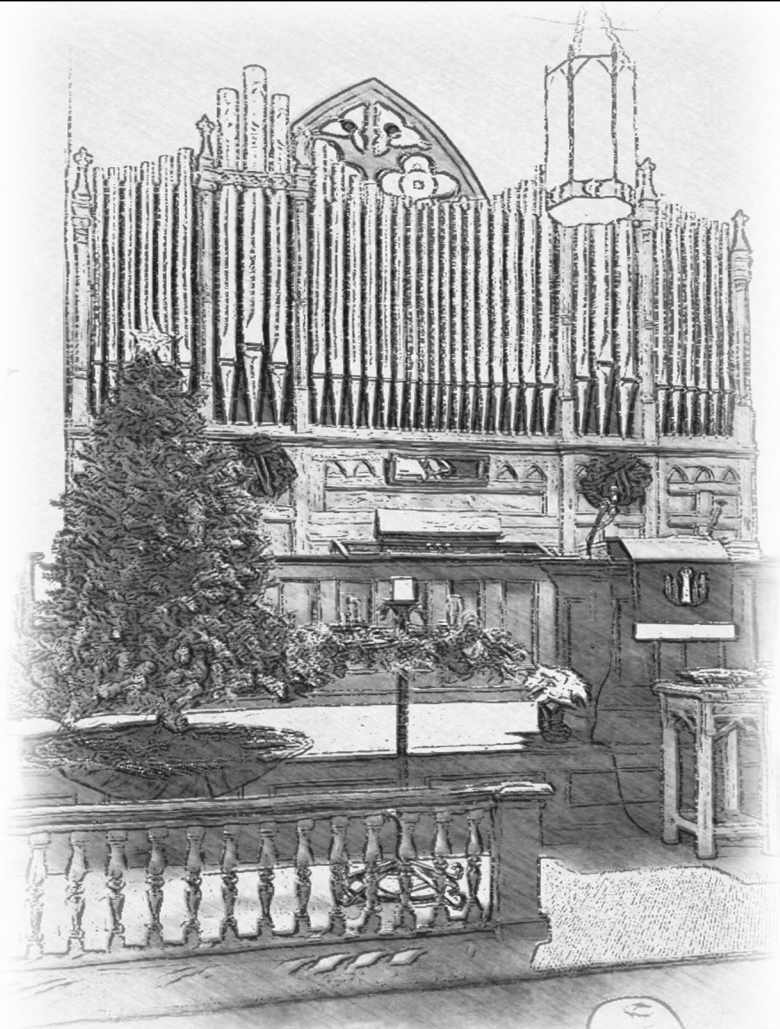


FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Come, Let Us Adore Him
Promise

Sunday December 22, 2024

82 West Central Street, Franklin, MA
508-528-1092

franklinumc.org
office@franklinumc.org

WELCOME TO FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH!

This service of worship is gathering in-person at the church building, in-person via Google Meet, and streaming on YouTube.

This worship aid, or “bulletin,” will guide you through this service, offering you a brief outline and instructions for the service along with the responses, prayers, and lyrics to the songs we will sing together. Congregational responses are typically **bolded**.

Prayer requests can be made by filling out the offering form enclosed with the print bulletins, or by going to **franklinumc.org/pray**. Confidential requests will be sent to the pastor. Non-confidential requests will be distributed to the Prayer Team.

Financial contributions can be made in the offering plate (cash or check made payable to “Franklin United Methodist Church”) or online by going to **franklinumc.org/give**.

To learn about ways you can volunteer, and sign up, go to **franklinumc.org/volunteer**. You can also sign up to volunteer by filling out the offering form enclosed with the print bulletins. All persons who sign up to volunteer will receive an email confirmation of your volunteer registration.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Children of God, the arrival of the Promised One is almost here!

We wait as people of God's promise.

The message of the prophets and the expectation residing in Mary's womb call to us today.

We listen as people of God's promise.

Mary's "yes" and Elizabeth's faithfulness guide our path, showing us that we too have a role to play in bearing good news into the world.

We follow as people of God's promise.

This is the promise Mary, Elizabeth, and the prophets bore that we continue to carry even today—God is with us!

God is with us! We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

SONG

“O THOU, IN WHOSE PRESENCE”

No. 518, *UMH* (1989)

O Thou, in whose presence my soul takes delight,
on whom in affliction I call,
my comfort by day and my song in the night,
my hope, my salvation, my all!

Where dost thou, dear Shepherd, resort with thy sheep,
to feed them in pastures of love?
Say, why in the valley of death should I weep,
or alone in the wilderness rove?

O why should I wander, an alien from thee,
or cry in the desert for bread?
Thy foes will rejoice when my sorrows they see,
and smile at the tears I have shed.

Restore, my dear Savior, the light of thy face,
thy soul-cheering comfort impart;
and let the sweet tokens of pardoning grace
bring joy to my desolate heart.

He looks! and ten thousands of angels rejoice,
and myriads wait for his word.
He speaks! and eternity, filled with his voice,
re-echoes the praise of the Lord.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER OF THE DAY

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever.
Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

MICAH 5:2-5A

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

When the people were looking for deliverance, the prophet Micah declared, "But you, O Bethlehe of Ephrathah...from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient day" (Micah 5:2). But what if Michah is also talking to us, proclaiming, "But you, O Franklin UMC, from you shall come forth for me..." What? What might God be calling forth from us?

God invites us to receive the promise of God's salvation and the sustenance of God's mercy and grace, enabling us to live the promise as God-bearers to the world. As Christ was born in Bethlehem, so too we answer God's invitation to have Christ born among us today and every day.

We light this candle of love as a sign of our commitment to live as people of God's promise, a promise of salvation and flourishing for all people that springs forth from God's love for all creation.

RESPONSE

"LIGHT ONE CANDLE"

Words and Music by Natalie Sleeth

Light one candle for hope, One bright candle for hope.
He brings hope to ev'ry heart, He comes, He comes!

Light one candle for peace, one bright candle for peace.
He brings peace to ev'ry heart. He comes! He comes!

Light one candle for joy, one bright candle for joy.
Ev'ry nation will find salvation in Beth-l'em's baby boy.

Light one candle for love, one bright candle for love.
He brings love to ev'ry heart. He comes! He comes!
He brings love to ev'ry heart.
He comes! He comes!

SCRIPTURE READING

LUKE 1:39-55

REFLECTION

Pastor Jacob

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, you promised to do great things for us,
yet we do not trust you.
You extend your mercy to us,
yet we do not trust you.
You lift up the humble,
you fill the hungry with good things,
and yet we still do not trust you.
Forgive us, and help us to trust
in the promises you have given us.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

SONG

“TELL OUT, MY SOUL”

No. 200, *UMH* (1989)

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of God's word;
in God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of God's name!
Make known God's might, who wondrous deeds has done;
God's mercy sure, from age to age the same;
God's holy name, the Lord, the mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of God's might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of God's word!
Firm is the promise and God's mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and forevermore!

OFFERING

DOXOLOGY

No. 95, *UMH* (1989)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYER

SONG

“SPIRIT– CHILD JESUS”

No. 3062, *W&S* (2011)

Spirit-child Jesus, in joyful refrain,
echoing songs over Bethlehem's plain,
what will we do when the carols all fade?
"Take up my song: Glory! Be not afraid!"

Spirit-child Jesus, in animal shed,
smiling at shepherds from strange borrowed bed,
what will we do when the manger's away?
"Take up my story, and live it each day!"

Spirit-child Jesus, in starry white light,
twinkling on evergreens, shiny and bright,
what will we do when the branches are shorn?
"Take up my cross that for you I have borne!"

Spirit-child Jesus, in vigilant eyes,
awaiting the gift bearing Love's great surprise,
what will we do when the presents are done?
"Take up my presence, for I am God's Son!"

Spirit-child Jesus, in hot tongues of flame,
melting the candle alight in your name,
What will we do when the candle is gone?
"Take up my light! Pass it on, pass it on!"

SENDING

THE PEACE

The peace of the Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

POSTLUDE

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

We hope that you found, in our community, a place to experience meaningful relationship with God, grow in Christ, and reach out in love to others. We hope that this community has been a place where you feel welcome, acceptance, and love. If you have questions about the church, or are interested in becoming a member of the church, please feel free to contact any of the leaders listed below.

franklinumc.org

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Paul Seaver, Custodian
Linda Zardeskas, Chair of Church Council
George Remus, Lay Leader & Treasurer
Dawn Harlow, Financial Secretary
Dawn Pokorny, Lay Member to Annual Conference
Allen Smith, Chair of Personnel Committee
John Milot, Chair of Resource Committee
Inger Anderson, Chair of Committee on Ministry

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 7PM

Join us on Christmas Eve at 7pm for a Candles & Carols traditional service. All are welcome. Details for the service can be found on the church website.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we look to 2025, we are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead. We aim to expand our programs, strengthen our community partnerships, reach out to more individuals, and continue to restore and renovate our facility. To achieve our goals, we are counting on your continued support. We invite you to make a year-end gift to help close out 2024 on a strong note. Additionally, we encourage you to renew your pledge for the coming year. Thank you for being a vital part of our church family. Your faith, generosity and dedication are truly appreciated. Please return your pledge card by December 22nd.

BLOOMING & GIVING IN DECEMBER

This season, let your purchase do more. Head over to the Franklin Stop & Shop location this month and purchase a specially marked \$10.99 *Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet*. Every bouquet sold will send us a \$1 donation!

BOOK CLUB

January we will be reading **The Ladies' Midnight Swimming Club** by Faith Hogan. The next meeting will be on **January 14 at 7pm**. The group will meet in a hybrid format at TBD or online (<https://meet.goto.com/richp/churchbookclub>), or phone (224-501-3412, access code 789-141-869).

MEALS ON WHEELS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Franklin Meals on Wheels office is looking for onsite volunteers, weekday mornings at the church. Meals on Wheels provides nutritious meals to in-need, homebound seniors in Franklin, Bellingham, Blackstone, and Medway. If you are interested or want more information, please contact Jeanne (Monday through Friday, 10a-1p) by phone at [508-520-1422](tel:508-520-1422).